

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected the application on various bases. In response thereto, Applicant has amended the application so as to overcome the rejections of the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected claims 5-7 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on the contention that they are unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,501,480 issued to Ordelman et al in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,431,614 issued to Jerenson. The Examiner has further rejected claims 8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '480 patent in view of the '614 patent in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,242,179 issued to Beddome et al.

Applicant respectfully submits that the references of the '480 and the '614 are not combinable. Indeed, '480 patent discloses a large mechanism which can be coupled to a wheelchair to achieve movement thereof with the use of hands. The user pedals with the hands to rotate the front wheel. The '614 patent discloses an stationary bike with additional handles that can be utilized to train and exercise the arms of a user. The bike is stationary and the handles are in addition to the regular handles of the bike. The secondary handles are not designed for steering, and the mechanism is not suitable for use in association with anything other than a stationary bike.

One of skill in the art would not contemplate coupling the drive mechanism from the stationary bike because there are other factors such as drivability and steering involved. Indeed, one of the devices is suited for arm strength increasing skills – and not for steering and motion of a movable wheelchair. Thus, one of skill in the art would not have combined the references.

Additionally, with respect to the combination of claims 8 and 12, by virtue of the construction of the wheel apparatus of the '480 patent, one of skill in the art would not have combined it with the '179 patent. The '179 patent teaches a very different mechanism that can be

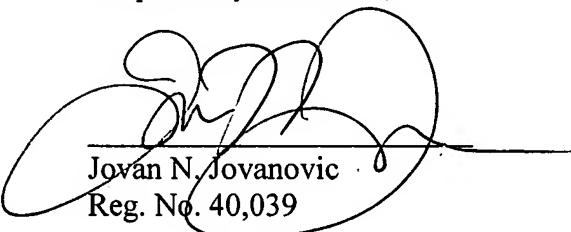
folded. To the contrary, the '480 patent teaches a rather large device with a contraption that is not suitable for folding and stowage. Thus, these reference are NOT combinable.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims should be deemed allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, claims 5 through 12 should be deemed allowable. Reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

Applicant herewith submits a three month extension of time and a PTO-2038 therewith.

Should any further fee be required, it may be charged to Applicant's attorney's deposit account 50-4229.

Respectfully submitted,



Jovan N. Jovanovic
Reg. No. 40,039

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THE WATSON IP GROUP
3133 Highland Drive, Suite 200
Hudsonville, MI 49426
(616) 797-1000 Telephone
(866) 369-7391 Facsimile